

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-11 FEA-02

TRSE-00 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 COME-00 INT-08 DODE-00 L-03

H-03 OMB-01 SCI-06 FPC-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /146 W

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R 141035Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 981

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: AMOSEAS-LIBYA NATIONALIZATION

REF: TRIPOLI 177

1. AMOSEAS PREIDENT ROSS SCHENK WAS IN NEW YORK CONSULTING PARENT COMPANIES WHEN ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMOSEAS NATIONALIZATION WAS MADE FEB. 11. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN IN DAY OR TWO. IN MEANTIME WE HAVE TALKED WITH AMOSEAS LEGAL OFFICIAL, AN AMERICAN, WHO SAID HEAD OFFICE IN U.S. HAD INSTRUCTED COMPANY TO CARRY ON BUSINESS AS USUAL. OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ARE GOING TO THE FIELD NORMALLY AND EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS WITHOUT DISRUPTIONS.

2. AT COMPANY MANAGEMENT MEETING FEB. 12 LIBYAN CHAIRMAN MADE TENTATIVE OFFER TO NEGOTIATE PROBLEMS OF TURNOVER, AND THIS HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO NEW YORK.

3. AMOSEAS EMPLOYEES ARE EXPERIENCED IN THEIR BUSINESS AND IN LIVING IN LIBYA, AND THERE HAS
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BEENLFO OENIC AMONG THEM. OFFICIAL ESTIMATED THAT OF COMPANY'S 90 FOREIGN EMPLOYEES ABOUT 75 WERE

AMERICAN CITIZENS--250 INCLUDING DEPENDENTS, PRACTICALLY ALL OF WHOM RESIDE IN TRIPOLI. HE ESTIMATED MOST OF THEM WOULD DECLINE LIBYAN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT WITH NATIONALIZED COMPANY. EARLY PRIMARY CONCERN FOR COMPANY WOULD BE SMOOTH DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN EMPLOYEES WISHING TO DEPART FROM LIBYA. CONCERNING LARG PROBLEM OF REPLACING DEPARTEES, HE THOUGHT IT COULD BE MANAGED BUT WITH DIFFICULTY. HE SAID HE KNEW THAT AS LONG AS THREE MONTHS AGO THE COMPANY'S LIBYAN CHAIRMAN HAD SENT INDIVIDUAL LETTERS TO FORMER AMOSEAS EMPLOYEES IN U.S. ASKING THEM TO COME BACK TO WORK FOR AMOSEAS. SOME HAVE AGREED TO DO SO.

4. CHARGE SAID EMBASSY WAS READY TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE IT COULD TO AMOSEAS AND ITS EMPLOYEES. IN ANSWER AMOSEAS REPRESENTATIVE'S INQUIRY. CHARGE SAID EMBASSY COULD HELP IN GETTING CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGES TO NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS ON SPOT BASIS, IF NECESSARY.

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